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and ranchers to the issues before the committee; and in doing so, casting a thoroughly practical light on the subject. His work was stabilizing in effect. He was also a valuable stabilizing influence in that he was attuned to the people he represented and knew what they would accept and adopt and what was too new or too much for them. He well understood that for laws to be successful in a democracy they must ultimately be embraced by the people, and he reminded the committee of that truth. In my judgment, Owen's valuable legacy is not as much in the bills that he introduced, although there were many fine ones including this year's wellhead protection bill and the Curtis bill of years ago, as in the mark he left, often unappreciated by the general body and by the general public on the numerous bills that passed through Natural Resources and eventually became the law of the land. The quality of the product was very often enhanced by the quality of this man's judgment. Finally, I am so very grateful for his personal friendship. He would tell me with care and warmth when I was a little too pressing, a little too creative, a little unfair and that's the kind of friend I think everyone needs at least one of. And so, Senator Elmer, in addition to the Legislature's gift, I want to give you a book of essays on selected presidents called Character Above All which I know you will enjoy and I have subscribed Rudyard Kipling's words from another time and place which in a less profound sense applies to us: "East is east and west is west and never the twain shall meet, save when two strong men stand face to face." Thank you, please. (Applause)

SENATOR ELMER: Tough speech up here. It's a pleasure to serve with all of you. You are my friends. Senator Robinson started out when he was talking about serving with many people and they're all my friends, too. Wylie Remmers, Emil Beyer, Gary Hannibal, Bernice Labedz, Brad Ashford, Tim Hall, Vard Johnson, Marge Higgins, Carol Pirsch, Ron Withem, Lowell Johnson, Frank Korshoj, good ol' sine die Frank, Jerry Conway, Elroy Hefner, Glenn Goodrich, Richard Peterson, Lee Rupp, Loran Schmit, Scotty Moore, Jerry Warner, Bill Harris, Jim McFarland, Shirley Marsh, Pat Morehead, Jerry Chizek, Jacklyn Smith, Rod Johnson, Arlene Nelson, Lorraine Langford, Jerry Miller, Congressman Bill Barrett, Carson Rogers, Jim Pappas, Howard Lamb, Rex Haberman, Dennis Baack, John Wehning, Sandy Scofield, Helen Campbell, Stephanie Johanns, David Bernard-Stevens, Spencer Morrissey,